

# Claims

- [c1] A method of using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method comprising:
  - graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;
  - graphically listing design rule violations;
  - displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;
  - generating and annotating a subset output file for use by other users; and
  - generating software help functions allowing said user to gain information about design rule violations.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein said design tool is a design rule checking system.
- [c3] The method of claim 1 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.
- [c4] The method of claim 3 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.

- [c5] The method of claim 1 including individually selecting said design rule violations.
- [c6] The method of claim 1 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.
- [c7] The method of claim 6 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.
- [c8] The method of claim 7 wherein said pop-up window further includes information identifying said design rule violations, net name, component name, information relating to design rules.
- [c9] The method of claim 8 wherein said pop-up window further comprises the identification of parameters being checked along with information as to said parameters' importance.
- [c10] The method of claim 1 including drawing a bounding box around any of said design rule violations.
- [c11] The method of claim 1 including loading and viewing said subset output file without running said design tool rule checker.
- [c12] The method of claim 1 wherein said subset file includes saved information relating to an identified violation.

- [c13] The method of claim 12 further including electronically sharing said saved information with different users.
- [c14] The method of claim 12 comprising requesting said identified violation be saved such that a resulting output file contains only those of said design rule violations that a user requested be saved, preserving said original design file.
- [c15] The method of claim 1 wherein said software help functions include highlighting, zooming, measuring cumulative distance between multiple points, changing view-points of a design, changing magnification level, changing feature visibility, and changing location of a viewport.
- [c16] The method of claim 1 further comprising reselecting said design rule violations to return to an originally presented view.
- [c17] A method of viewing violations identified by a design rule checker comprising:  
inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;  
inputting design file information into said software program routine;  
generating a subset output file of said violations for a

user to view; and  
editing said design file based on said violations.

- [c18] The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
inputting design data and rule checker parameters into a  
design rule checking tool; and  
performing design rule checking.
- [c19] The method of claim 17 including generating a subset  
text output file of said violations.
- [c20] The method of claim 17 including allowing said user to  
individually select said violations.
- [c21] The method of claim 17 including representing said out-  
put as part of a software layer of said design rule  
checker, and deleting said output when no longer re-  
quired.
- [c22] The method of claim 21 including having said software  
layer presented in a pop-up window display.
- [c23] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangi-  
bly embodying a program of instructions executable by  
the machine to perform method steps for using text  
from a design tool to display an output to a user, said  
method steps comprising:  
graphically displaying said output from said text of said

design tool;  
graphically listing design rule violations;  
displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;  
generating and annotating a subset output file for use by other users; and  
generating software help functions allowing said user to gain information about design rule violations.

- [c24] The program storage device of claim 23 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.
- [c25] The program storage device of claim 24 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.
- [c26] The program storage device of claim 23 including individually selecting said design rule violations.
- [c27] The program storage device of claim 23 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.
- [c28] The program storage device of claim 27 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

- [c29] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for viewing violations identified by a design rule checker, said method steps comprising:
- inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;
  - inputting design file information into said software program routine;
  - generating a subset output file of said violations for a user to view; and
  - editing said design file based on said violations.
- [c30] The method of claim 29 including generating a subset text output file of said violations.